



“University premises” means the buildings and grounds of a university, including playing fields and parking areas on which university or university-related activities are conducted. In addition, the proposed law would also apply to any other public buildings or grounds that are not university property, but on which university-related and sanctioned activities are performed.

The effective date of the provisions of this act would be July 1, 2003.

### Significant Issues

1. The bill specifically identifies the universities to which this new law would apply. These include:
  - University of New Mexico,
  - New Mexico State University,
  - New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology,
  - New Mexico Highlands University,
  - Eastern New Mexico University, and
  - Western New Mexico University.
2. College personnel, college sponsored activities on non-university premises / non-public buildings, and community college premises *seem* to be excluded from protection offered in this bill.

Is the term “public” in this instance intended to address state or local government ownership of the buildings, or is it intended to mean a place where members of the general public congregate?

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct fiscal implications related to SB 901/SCONCS. However, there may be secondary costs to the state, including costs for the courts, public defender’s office, district attorney’s office and the department of corrections if there were to be a significant number of violations of this new provision.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The Commission on Higher Education references Chapter 30, Article 7, “Weapons and Explosives”, and notes that Senate Bill 901 is similar to 30-7-2.1, which applies to “any public elementary, secondary, junior high or high school...under the supervision of a local school board.” SB 901/SCONCS expands coverage to designated public universities. Left without coverage are the public colleges.

### **AMENDMENTS**

The Commission on Higher Education asks: “Should SB901/SCONCS be amended to include the public colleges of the State of New Mexico?”